



MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Legislative Fiscal Division

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Legislative Fiscal Analyst
CLAYTON SCHENCK

DATE: February 10, 2006

TO: Legislative Finance Committee

FROM: Greg DeWitt, Legislative Fiscal Division

RE: Letter on Agency Information Technology Plans

At your December 2005 meeting Jeff Brandt, the acting state chief information officer, reported that several agencies were operating without approved agency information technology plans that corresponded to the 2004 update of the state strategic information technology plan. The committee directed staff to draft a letter encouraging agencies to follow the law and work with the Department of Administration to obtain approval of agency information technology plans. As stated in the letter, the Montana Information Technology Act requires that agencies develop agency information technology plans and obtain approval from the Department of Administration by June 30 of each even number year.

According to the Department of Administration, the following agencies do not currently have approved information technology plans and are therefore in violation of 2-17-527, MCA:

- o Secretary of State
- o Montana State Library
- o Department of Justice
- o Governor's Office
- o State Auditor

If approved, the enclosed letter will be sent to all agency directors and correspond with transmittal of the 2006 update of the state strategic information technology plan. The letter advises the agency directors of the committee's concern with agencies operating without approved information technology plans and the committee's plan to develop recommendations for the 2007 Legislature for reviewing agency information technology budget requests. Simply stated, the letter advises the agency directors that the committee plans to recommend that budget requests not be approved unless they are supported by an approved agency information technology plan that corresponded to the 2006 update of the state strategic plan.

C: Clayton Schenck, LFA